

a thing which especially distinguished him from the thrifty and even miserly Lombards, an excellent boon-fellow, accustomed to drink even to the danger of his health, and exhibiting the ways of his own country in the great and generous feasts which he was in the habit of providing.¹

The Latin and the Englishman were succeeded by a man whose history, full of interest as it is, belongs to the next reign, Maio of Bari, son of an influential citizen of that town, was in 1144

scriniarius or keeper of the archives at Palermo;

in October, 1151, he was made Vice-Chancellor,

and before the King's death he had received the

full office of Chancellor, left vacant by Robert of

Selby, It was to be Maio's destiny to become a

real vizir to the irresolute William I, and as

"grand emir of emirs" to achieve a higher place

than ever George of Antioch had done, but to fall

at last by the daggers of the offended nobles.

Robert of Selby's successor is a sinister figure, but

much of the credit must be his of the steady build-

ing tip of the royal power,

One Englishman more, though of less rank than

the Chancellor Robert, played a great part in the

creation of the Norman-Sicilian administration,

Thomas Brown, or Brun, came to Sicily about 1130, probably with Robert of Selby, being then thirty years old, and was made *cappellantis* in the royal Curia, In a charter of 1144 he appears

¹ *Polycratictis* (Webb), ii, » 31, 173, and *Chron*, *M.G.H.SS*, t, xxvii., p. 15.